

# Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

15 April 2021

There has been an increase in the number of complaints of odour in the area this week. We are very concerned about this and as a result we brought forward our site visit to Walleys Quarry landfill to Tuesday 13 April to investigate the reason for the increase. In the last week we have also visited the immediate vicinity of the site on an almost daily basis to carry out odour amenity checks.

We recognise and understand the ongoing problems with odour experienced by residents and others in the area. As part of our regulation of the site, we continue to inspect the site and surrounding areas on a regular basis.

We are working closely with Public Health England and Staffordshire County Council to share information, including data from our air quality monitoring, so they can assess health implications of the odour.

## LATEST INFORMATION

- Two additional air quality monitoring units will be installed in the Newcastle under Lyme area to support the information and monitoring requirements of all partners. We are expecting the units to be collecting data in the next couple of weeks. Further information will be available nearer the time.
- The monitoring data for mid-March to mid-April from the current air quality monitoring will be sent to Public Health England for their assessment of the health implications. We will post their report of the data analysis as soon as this is available.
- To complete the necessary capping of parts of the landfill, Red Industries began accepting waste onto the Walleys Quarry site in Silverdale, Newcastle under Lyme from Wednesday 7 April. We inspected the site on Thursday 8 April and confirmed this is general skip waste that is needed to complete the capping, as required by the enforcement notice we issued the company on Friday 26 March. We also verified that the capping is progressing as expected.
- Red Industries has until 30 April 2021 to carry out the actions in the enforcement notice. Until then, we will continue to visit the site regularly to check on their progress.
- From social media, we know there was concern about the 'blue powder' that was accepted onto the site in late March. We can assure that this is a non-hazardous waste material and is allowed to be accepted onto the site. This waste was from the company's internal waste transfer station at Sneyd Hill, Stoke on Trent, and contained blue 'filter cake' residue from this site's treatment process. The drums contained empty paint / varnish containers. This type of waste is in-line with our agreement on the type and volume of waste the site would receive during the current restrictions.

- Further to a report of a pipe discharging into the Silverdale Brook on Saturday 27 March, we attended the Walleys Quarry landfill site and found that a section of pipe from one of the on-site lagoons was leaking. Preliminary samples of the discharge were taken and the analysis results we have to date show it was typical of what would have passed through different geological layers, of which coal could be one. We have since carried out further samples of the groundwater and are awaiting the results of these tests.
- We were made aware of independent testing that Red Industries had commissioned into other potential sources of odour from hydrogen sulphide contamination in the area and we are working with our regulatory partners to look into other potential sources.
- We know there is an interest in the number of odour reports we are receiving, so we will start to report the numbers here. The number of reports of odour in the Newcastle under Lyme area for week from 5 April to 11 April is 1,168.

### Health Information

See [Staffordshire County Council website](#) for the latest on public health impacts of odours in the Silverdale and wider Newcastle under Lyme area.

### Contact us

Where possible, we ask residents to report odours in the local area surrounding Walleys Quarry via email. To report an odour issue related to Walleys Quarry, please [Click Here](#). This will open a template email for you to complete and send to our Incident Communications Service (ICS).

### Further information

- See previous weekly updates for details of recent issues and our regulatory actions.
- We are updating the information on this webpage every week. To receive notifications when these updates happen email your contact details to: [Engagement\\_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Engagement_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk) and we will add you to our mailing list.

### Multi-agency roles and responsibilities

- The Environment Agency regulates the two environmental permits held by Red Industries RM Limited ('the operator') for the landfill. The permit covers on-site activities with the aim of minimising the impact on the local environment in terms of air quality, noise, odour, dust, leachate and impacts to groundwater. We enforce that permit through monitoring and undertaking site visits (both announced and unannounced) and where needed we take enforcement action to address compliance issues.
- Staffordshire County Council is responsible for determining planning permission across the area. The Environment Agency comments on planning applications. The

Council also has responsibilities for traffic movement. This is part of planning permission for the site and is not included in the Environment Agency permit conditions.

- Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council is responsible for regularly monitoring air quality across the area, to ensure that it does not impact human health.
- Public Health England is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct organisation with operational autonomy. They provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific expertise and support. They have no statutory powers in relation to odorous sites and therefore work with multi-agency partners to ensure public health is protected.